



FEMA

Acquisition and Elevation Project in Mandeville, Louisiana

Mandeville, LA - In the City of Mandeville, approximately 80 percent of the incorporated area is within a Special Flood Hazard Area, Zone A and Zone V. In May 1995, the southeastern portion of Louisiana experienced a flood so significant that the National Flood Insurance Program estimated it to be the most expensive flood disaster for Louisiana, costing approximately \$534 million in claims paid.

The City of Mandeville itself experienced low level to deep water flooding in over 200 residential structures. One subdivision in particular, Golden Glen, had many homes substantially damaged by flood waters, several of them in Zone C. Mayor Eddie Price made a commitment to his citizens to do something about the flooding problem.

Mayor Price organized a local hazard mitigation team and developed a local hazard mitigation plan for the City, incorporating all aspects of Multi-Objective Management. Hazard mitigation alternatives were discussed among the City staff; a determination to pursue acquisition, elevation, and dry floodproofing of residential structures was then agreed upon.

The City sponsored a series of projects, using new technology to elevate concrete slab structures with the slab attached, achieving benefit cost ratios of 5:1 and greater. Local demolition contractors tore down several structures to open drainage pathways, and a local floodproofing contractor was hired to protect those structures with a history of low-level flooding.

The City has now eliminated the costs of flood damage in the subdivision of Golden Glen, as demonstrated by two subsequent floods that occurred in 1998. Structures that would have flooded are well above the base flood elevation, completely removed, or are watertight. It is estimated that this project has saved almost \$500,000 in 1998 alone!

The new elevation technology used by local contractors, the development of an effective dry floodproofing technique, and the technical expertise of local mitigation consultants have all been an excellent combination to solve many of these problems.



**Saint Tammany Parish,
Louisiana**



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public

Cost:

\$1,800,000.00 (Actual)

Primary Activity/Project:

Acquisition/Buyouts

Primary Funding:

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)